

Summer jobs at the sailing school

Since 2021, the Port of Gothenburg has been sponsoring the Young People & Sailing project, in which children from Gårdsten are given an opportunity to attend a sailing school and camp on the island of Æolusön. Ten young people have also been given summer jobs at the GKSS port.

It was in 2005 that children from Gårdsten first took part in the sailing school and camp through a partnership set up by Salma Nazzal at Gårdstensbostäder and Anders Andrén at the Royal Gothenburg Yacht Club (GKSS). The Port of Gothenburg joined as main sponsor in 2021.

It is essential for us to be an active partner, and last summer one of our employees, Eva Wegsjö Sande, General Manager Purchasing, took on the role of driver and transported the children from Gårdsten to GKSS. She describes it as incredibly enjoyable and that it was amazing to see the joy and enthusiasm of the children.

SUMMER JOBS ON OFFER

Jenny Perez-Grannas, health developer at Gårdstensbostäder, believes that the Port of Gothenburg's contribution is important, not least because of its role in the city.

"The Port of Gothenburg could have chosen to just offer money for sponsorship, but they're on site and passionate about this during the year, which is important. They really are super-engaged," says Jenny Perez-Grannas.



Jenny Perez-Grannas



Salma Nazzal

She emphasises that a project that could easily have suffered in these times of cutbacks has now been given an extra boost.

"Thanks to the Port of Gothenburg, we can offer swimming lessons for children who want to sail, but can't swim, which is a requirement. Without that, we'd have been forced to turn away a lot of children, as very few of the ones from Gårdsten can swim, and then they'd have lost interest in sailing. We can also offer summer jobs for ten young people, which helps them to gain a foothold in the labour market, and an opportunity to work in a different environment than holiday work in our residential area."

Salma Nazzal points out how the children make friends in other parts of the city, which makes it a real integration project, even though it is not called that.

During the winter, she and Jenny Perez-Grannas take the children to the Gothenburg Boat Show, where they get to dream about sailing on big boats. Four young people



Natalia – one of our summer workers

Natalia Wuszat found a job as Port Host Assistant through Young People & Sailing. She explains what this has meant to her.

"It's been difficult to find a job, so I'm really grateful. Being able to meet all the guests sailing in from so many different countries, and the way they're all so nice, means that I really try to give them the best service and make them feel welcome in Gothenburg. And of course this job is especially good for me to have on my CV. In previous summers I've worked at Gårdsten on property maintenance, and that was just fine, but this year is special. I've never worked in customer service before, and it's great to try something new."

who show a special interest are also given a grant to buy sailing equipment.

BOOSTS SELF-ESTEEM

According to Jenny, the sailing school is a maritime adventure and a wonderful start to the summer holiday for the children. It also boosts their self-esteem and self-confidence, as evidenced by the fact that many former participants are now instructors at the school and the camp, and have chosen to continue studying in higher education.

The last word goes to the woman behind the project, Salma Nazzal:

"The Port of Gothenburg is flexible and wonderful. And they have the engagement that's needed."